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December 9.—Mr. Lloyd exhibited a specimen of the Vegetable Flannel described in p. 359 of our 4th volume, brought by him from Berlin. He at the same time laid on the table of the Academy a specimen of a very similar substance, which he had received from Sir John Herschel, and which was found investing the rocks at the mouth of one of the rivers of Southern Africa. It resembles the other very much in external appearance, except that the fibres are coarser, and more compactly matted together. It appears to consist almost entirely of *confervæ*, but apparently of a different species.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON *DATISCA CANNABINA* AND IMPREGNATION.

Dr. Fresenius has observed that in *Datisca cannabina*, when female plants remain isolated, they are able nevertheless to produce ripe fruit in abundance; and he thinks he is justified in concluding that this and other purely female forms are, in the absence of male organs, endowed with the capability of developing, by a purely vegetative process, the highest vital product, the terminal bud. In the summer of 1837 a female specimen of the above plant in the Frankfort botanical garden, developed a stem from its root which now bears male flowers also.—*Linnaea*, Part III. 1839.

ON A NEW GENUS OF CEPHALOPODA.

M. Eschricht has given in the Transactions of the Academy of Copenhagen a description of a highly remarkable Cephalopod from Jacobshavn, in Greenland, as a new genus, under the name *Cirro-teuthis Mülleri*, with the following character: "Octopus suctorii minimis unam seriem in quovis brachio formantibus; brachiis cir-

* Since the foregoing was written, Mr. Ball was favoured with an inspection of Cuttle-fish bones, found at different times on Magilligan Strand, county of Derry, by Mr. Hyndman, of Belfast. They seem to be those of *Sepia rupellaria*, figured in Ferussac's third plate of *Sepia*. His attention was also directed to beaks of Cuttle-fish, found in the stomachs of *Delphinus melas* and *Hyperoodon bideus*. They belonged to a species of Cephalopod he has not yet determined. As he purposes writing a monograph of the Cephalopoda of the Irish seas, he requests information on the subject from all who can afford it.

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